

# RENTS STAND IN 8 ROLINGS

## Board Decides 46 Cases in First Month—10 Listed for Hearing Tomorrow.

Increases in rent in but three cases have been allowed by the District Rent Commission since it became operative slightly more than a month ago. Two reductions have been granted, and of the other eight rent complaints heard the commission decided that the present rental paid in each instance was fair and should be continued.

A review of the commission's first month's work discloses the following interesting fact: That of the forty-six cases decided, thirty-three involved disputes of possession and but thirteen dealt with rent complaints.

During this month, which ended yesterday, the commission called nine, twenty cases for hearing. Determinations were handed down in forty-six of these. Twenty were dismissed by settlement. Ten cases are awaiting determination. Sixteen are held up pending continuance or settlement by parties to other suits. In four there have been motions for rehearing.

### 366 Complaints on Docket.

Thus far 366 complaints have been docketed and the defendants have been served or are in process of being served. About fifty other cases are yet to be placed on the docket.

Complaints are being received in about the same ratio as when the commission first began its work. There is no appreciable falling off in the number of cases. And the majority of complaints continue to be those about possession rather than about excessive rentals. It was expected that the latter would far exceed the former in numbers because of the prevalent complaints about profiteering in landings.

Of the cases decided thus far twenty-four were in favor of the complainant and twenty-two for the defendants.

The work of the commission, up to this time has generally won the favor of tenants, landlords, real estate agents, attorneys, and others who have come in contact with it. The expediency with which the work has been handled has been commented upon, the commission having made noteworthy progress after it was handicapped from the beginning with a deluge of cases because of its inability to immediately establish permanent quarters.

### Cases Assigned for Tomorrow.

The following cases have been assigned for hearing tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock:

James A. Davis, trustee, against H. D. Childs, increased rent and possession, second and third floors, 1115 U street northwest.

John D. Fleming against Clarence M. De Velle, extension of time in which to vacate 1837 Seventh street northwest.

Postmaster M. O. Chance against the District Commission, for a continuation of the postoffice in Eagle Hut, at Ninth street and Pennsylvania avenue.

Miss Marguerite Hartman against Mrs. DeWilde H. Edwards, excessive rent, 1004 Massachusetts avenue.

May E. Smith against A. C. Ford, possession of apartment, 6, 2215 Fourteenth street northwest.

Walter L. Shively against George W. Linkins, excessive rent, apartment 42, 3121 Mt. Pleasant street northwest.

Stanley H. Horner against Lora Lee Geoghegan, excessive rent, apartment 34, 1340 Fairmont street.

Milford O. Jarvis and others against Hannibal Halliack, possession 635 H street northwest.

Katherine E. Day against William J. Hunt, possession 605 Raleigh street, Congress Heights.

# LANSING PRESIDES AT MEETING OF ART CLUBS

The Washington Society of the Archeological Institute of America and the Art and Archaeology League held a joint meeting at the auditorium of the Corcoran Art Gallery yesterday afternoon. Former Secretary of State Robert Lansing presided. An illustrated lecture on "The Architecture of Ravenna," was given by Prof. John Shapley, of Brown University, secretary of the College Art Association of America.

Sir Bertram Windle, a British archaeologist, now of St. Michael's College, University of Toronto, has been appointed by Charles Eliot Norton, memorial lecturer of the Archeological Institute, and will give an illustrated address before the Washington Archeological Society at the United States National Museum, April 18. He will talk on "The Mosaics of Ravenna."

The new studio assembly of the league will be held at studios of Mr. and Mrs. H. K. Bush-Brown, 1729 G street, April 3. A visit to the National Gallery of Art, in charge of Dr. Gertrude Brigham, will be made on Sunday afternoon, April 25, at 3 o'clock.

# ELECTRIC MINING COURSE IS OFFERED BY K. OF C.

Courses in interior electric wiring and other electrical mechanism have been introduced into the curriculum of the Knights of Columbus Evening Trades School, Sixth and G streets northwest, and many ex-soldiers have taken advantage of the service.

Enlisted and discharged service men are offered free tuition by the K. of C. in these classes, and if they are interested in electricity a chance to learn the various uses of it is offered. The proposition of introducing a course in storage batteries is being considered.

# TALE OF A CAT

## You Can Have a Good, Every-Day Feline for the Asking from Animal League.

### 8,000 MORE IN 5 YEARS

## Miss Murdock Left \$3,500 to Institution With Proviso That Tabbies Must Be Cared

Want a cat? If you can guarantee that you are not a violent cat likely to be one, have a home that can house a nice kitty, and will promise to be good to it or return it in good order, you can have a cat. In fact, you can have your pick of seven perfectly good cats and twelve (at press time) kittens, suddenly dropped into the motherly lap of the Animal League.

They are not blooded cats—no Angora or Manx or Shropshire, or any of that sort of thing. Just good, plain American rat-eating, foot-dragging cats, with four legs, one on each corner, and tails of ordinary length. It happened this way:

The How of it. Miss Marianne Murdock, 3324 O street northwest, recently left \$3,500 to the league in her will, with a proviso that her cats and kittens should be cared for by the league. The league cannot, under the District laws, take them in its home. It must see that they are properly housed in private homes or lose the \$3,500.

Considerable speculation arose when the will of Miss Murdock was filed as to just what disposition could be made of the cats. Immediately there arose the question as to whether the cats' heirs and assigns, under the provisions of the will, become the property and proteges of the league forever and ever, to have and to hold, keep and support, lawful and legal.

No Race Sale. Officials of the league pointed out that a good cat with nine lives will multiply itself by seven in a year. At such rate of production the heirs and assigns, it was shown, would reach a total considerably more than 8,000 in five years, with less than a half dollar a year to support them from the \$3,500 fund.

Officially, the league has the seven cats and twelve kittens would have to be placed in surroundings such as to discourage family life, or their heirs would have to be raised in a kennel.

The executors, after conference with Attorney Benjamin Minor, who filed the will, came to the conclusion that the best thing to do was to turn the cats over to kind persons who would take them into their homes.

So Miss Murdock's cats will be allocated to any who will care for them, and the question of the 8,000 in five years is eliminated. The \$3,500 will be used to care for the 5,000 other homeless animals handled by the league every year.

# CITIZENS DIVIDED IN SCHOOL FIGHT

Partisanship, personal animus and undue prejudice were some of the charges hurled back and forth by the Thurston and Van Schaick factions during a session of the Federation of Citizens' Associations last night at the District Building.

A storm of protest was brought forth when Delegate William M. Clayton predicted that even if the school controversy had not arisen, the Senate would have refused to confirm Van Schaick as district commissioner.

D. A. Edwards, also a member of the association school committee, took violent exception to this assertion and declared "he did not know it was any part of the business of the committee to forecast the action of the Senate on the confirmation of Van Schaick."

At this juncture, Thomas J. Donovan, of the Central Citizens' Association, spoke on the question of the rebate to the two factions in the committee, and declared it had rendered itself incapable of accomplishing anything useful because of its partisanship.

"I hear urged as a fine thing that the committee has on it two men who are friends of Van Schaick," he said. "Presumably, the other three are of the Thurston action. Such degree of administration, such stultification of the committee in its appearance at the Senate hearings."

Hearty applause greeted Donovan's speech, and a resolution offered by Chairman Haysen, asking the Senate to provide a larger room for the hearings, was turned down.

Resolutions expressing condolence and sympathy in the deaths of Maj. Raymond Pullman, superintendent of police, and Emily Wilson, principal of the Central High School, were adopted.

# Weather Man Pledges New Spring Happiness In Cup of His Very Best

Today is the first day of spring. Scientifically, though, spring arrived yesterday afternoon—4:59 p. m. to be exact—and the temperature at that time was 39.5 degrees at the Weather Bureau.

For the purpose of argument with Doubting Thomases who dispute the exact date of spring's entry, the Weather Bureau ordered warm weather for today, and it was duly served to an anxious populace at sun-up this morning.

# PRINTS OF ALL FINGERS URGED

## "Mark" Every American, Including Babies, Says Police Expert, and "Keep Out Reds."

Urging not only the finger-printing of all Federal employees in the Capital but a national system under Government control of taking the finger-prints of every man, woman, and child, Patrick Ryan, former finger-print expert of the New York police department and now associated with the municipal civil service commission of that city, created a mild sensation last night at a banquet of the War and Navy Department members of the International Society for Personal Identification.

"Keep the reds out American soil," said Mr. Ryan. "This will be a simple matter if the deported reds have had their fingerprints taken. The finger-print is an infallible identification, there being no two finger-prints alike. Immigrants leaving foreign shores for the United States should by all means have their finger-prints taken either before sailing or on the ship, carrying them to these shores. If a record of finger-prints is kept through an international system of police and immigration authorities, a red immigrant can be refused passage to this country and entry into our ports."

### Urges Finger-prints of Babies.

Every health department should have on file the fingerprints of babies, particularly those born in hospitals, said Mr. Ryan. Such a record, he claimed, would dispel the fears of a mother that her baby had been carelessly "switched" in a hospital ward.

The records of education in every large city should have the fingerprints of all school children, Mr. Ryan argued, to help the police locate the parents of lost daughters.

And every municipality should have the fingerprints of every man and woman," continued Mr. Ryan. "Hundreds are killed by street cars, trains and autos every year. Some lie in morgues for days, weeks and months before they are identified. Others are never identified. With a national system of fingerprinting this would never happen.

Then, again, fingerprints deter evil-doers, men and women from crime. Police departments have got the finger-print system down to a close margin.

### Sure Means of Identification.

Dr. Henry P. de Forest, former Washingtonian, for many years municipal medical examiner of New York city and a student of criminology, spoke on the first use of finger prints in America. He told of banks using finger prints of depositors as sure methods of identification when doubt was aroused.

Among the guests at the banquet were Congressman William C. Calder and William E. Cleary of New York; Judge Kathryn Sellers, of the District Juvenile Court; Acting Superintendent of Washington Police Inspector Harry L. Gessford, M. A. Morrison, president of the Federal Civil Service Commission; Dr. R. H. True, Department of Agriculture; M. C. Figg, chief of identification, Department of Justice; Miss G. M. Sullenberger, finger print expert, department of corrections, New York; Walter S. Kaye, chief of identification Bureau, War Department; James H. Taylor, chief identification Bureau, Navy Department, and William J. Munch, formerly of the War Department. Christopher C. Bennett was chairman of the banquet, which was held at the Washington Hotel.

The following Washingtonians: Cornelius Madden, George Nelson, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Jr., James F. Marks, Richard P. Anderson, and Harry P. Lawlor, all finger print experts of the War and Navy Departments.

# BREATH OF PERSIA FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

The effect on Persia of the American financial commission, headed by Morgan W. Shuster, of Washington, was discussed at length by Dr. Charles W. Russell, former United States minister to Persia, in an address before the class in the study of current political and diplomatic events at the American University last night.

Dr. Russell also discussed the secret treaty between England and Persia, by which England was to get a "lion's share" of the spoils of Persia. Dr. Russell recently appeared before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in reference to this treaty.

The Zionist movement will be the topic of discussion at the next meeting of the class, March 27, at 8 o'clock. Attorney Julius I. Peyer will speak. The lectures are open to the public, but persons desiring to attend are requested to make arrangements with Dean Putney, at 1907 F street northwest.

# FLOWERS

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# Yum! Yum! Warm Goodies For School Kiddies



Warm lunches will be served daily in every public graded school in Washington if efforts of the Mothers' Club of the Johnson-Powell Schools are successful.

This club, originator of the plan to serve cocoa or hot soup in the Johnson-Powell Schools, also favors the serving of a glass of milk with crackers during the fifteen-minute morning recess.

The above picture shows children enjoying one of their hot lunches in the Johnson School.

# BALL RENT LAW AGAIN ATTACKED

## Louis Hirsch Appeals Suit for Right to Hold Building When Lease Expires.

The Ball rent law is again under fire.

Attacking its constitutionality, particularly the validity of the legislative declaration that real estate in Washington is "affected with a public interest," Attorney William G. Johnson, Myer Cohen, and Richard D. Daniels have filed in the District Court of Appeals a brief in support of their claim that the District Supreme Court erred in refusing a preliminary injunction in favor of Louis Hirsch who sued for possession of premises 919 F street northwest, of which Julius Block is tenant.

Although Mr. Block's lease has expired, his lawyers contend he has the right to remain tenant under the provision of the Ball rent law. Mr. Hirsch claims the right to reversion at the end of the lease, contending the commission has no right to fix the price at which the tenant may continue.

The brief contends that "it is the constitutional right of the citizen to decide for himself with whom he will contract and whom he will accept or continue as tenant, and he may not lawfully be compelled to accept one as tenant of whom he does not approve."

"War carries many and grievous afflictions," reads the brief, "but among them is not the abrogation, temporary or permanent, of the constitutional limitation upon the power of Congress. Further the brief states that the 'successful prosecution of the war does not require that Mr. Block should continue to sell ladies' wear at 919 F street northwest, rather than that Mr. Hirsch should sell men's furnishings at the same place after January 1, 1920, when Block's lease expired.'"

Such an act, the brief says, is itself a deprivation of property without due process of law and a taking without compensation."

# SCRIBNER LECTURES ON ROCK CREEK PARK'S LURE

"The Lure of Rock Creek Park" was the subject of the address of F. L. Scribner delivered last night before the Biological Society of Washington at the Cosmos Club. Mr. Scribner's address was accompanied by illustrated slides showing the many varieties of plants found in the park and the beauties of the park in summer and winter.

"Rock Creek possesses more varieties of plants and wild flowers, interesting from a botanical standpoint than any other similar park in the United States," said Mr. Scribner. The speaker said that there were more than 350 varieties of plant life in the park.

T. E. Snyder, a member of the society, read a paper on the lead cable borer.

# OVERCOAT IS STOLEN.

The theft of an overcoat valued at \$40 was reported to the police last night by Thomas Newton, 1419 Tenth street northwest. The coat was stolen, the police reported, from Pythian Temple, Twelfth and U streets northwest.

# Open Every Morning at Half Past Eight

Once upon a time it was the custom of all banks to balance passbooks whenever customers would bring them in. It is different now—because modern methods are in vogue. Our bank mails a report every month explaining every transaction of the month, and showing the exact balance to the depositor's account.

FEDERAL NATIONAL BANK  
S. E. Corner Fourteenth and G Sts.

# U. S. WORKERS 'CUSS' TOO MUCH, SAY CHARWOMEN

Government officials principally, and Federal employees generally, are past masters when it comes to "cussing."

And they certainly know very little about the proper use of cursors.

At least this is the opinion charwomen have of them, and they voiced their protests against profanity very strongly at a meeting of the colored women's branch of the charwomen's union Friday night.

The women complained that the "words" of "Government people in their offices were not fit for decent women's ears."

They also charged that as receptacles for refuse cursors are most popular.

The women further expressed the opinion that Government workers are careless. They registered a protest against desks littered with papers so that they could not be dusted, and against the forgetfulness of officials and employees to lock drawers and compartments containing valuable documents.

# OREGON STATE BIOLOGIST GIVES LECTURE ON BIRDS

Dr. William L. Finley, State biologist of Oregon, gave an illustrated lecture last night at the National Museum. Dr. Finley showed unusual motion pictures of wild bird life. Such rare pictures as young kingfishers without a feather, a grebe nesting and a mountain ptarmigan or "snow grouse," sitting on her eggs were shown, as well as many intimate pictures of chickadees, nuthatches, owls, and woodpeckers.

The speaker urged that as a measure of economy and crop conservation bird houses be put up wherever wild birds could be induced to occupy them.

The lecture was arranged by the local Audubon Society. The society will give a series of six "bird walks" for the study of wild birds, the first to be held on Saturday, April 17, and weekly thereafter for five weeks.

# What's Doing; Where; When

Today.  
Lecture—David G. Goldstein, under direction Knights of Columbus, Liberty Hut, opposite Union Station, 8 p. m.  
Biblical Play—Young Judea, Hebrew Free School of Washington, Y. M. H. A. rooms, Eleventh and Pennsylvania avenue northwest, 8 p. m.  
Lecture—Rev. Freely Rhorer, Railroad Men's Y. M. C. A., Union Station, 4 p. m.  
Memorial services—For Emory M. Wilson, Central High School, 4 p. m.  
Entertainment—"The Upper Room," Trinity College Dramatic Society, 3:30 p. m.

Meeting—Friends of Irish Freedom, 601 E street northwest, 8 p. m.  
Address—Mrs. George E. Haynes, Plymouth Church, 8 p. m.  
Hike—Vanderlusts, Takoma Park, 2:15 p. m.  
Hike—Red Triangle Club, meet Twenty-second and P streets northwest, 3 p. m.  
Address—Dr. William Pickens, Andrew Chapel, 4:50 p. m.

Tomorrow.  
Meeting—Parents' League, Metropolitan A. M. E. Church, 8 p. m.  
Meeting—Lodge of Loyal Women, 207 A street southeast, 8 p. m.

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QUALITY!!  
QUALITY!!

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# COURT ACTION IF FARES JUMP

## Citizens Will Seek Injunction If Capital Traction Co. Is Granted Increase.

William McK. Clayton, chairman of the Public Utilities Committee of the Federation of Citizens' Association, who will represent the public in the fight to prevent a street car fare raise, stated today that if the Public Utilities Commission granted an increase to both railway companies the citizens probably would seek an injunction in the District Supreme court to restrain the commission from giving a higher fare on the Capital Traction Company lines.

"The Capital Traction Company is a sound and going concern and does not need money," said Mr. Clayton. "It is earning more now than it should. Any increase would be like obbing the public. I think that we will go to court if the commission decides to give this company several hundred thousand dollars more a year by increasing fares."

When the public hearing begins at 10 o'clock next Tuesday morning in the board room of the District Building and Washington Railway and Electric Company officials appeal for a fare raise, Mr. Clayton will be on hand representing 15,000 members of thirty-five citizens' associations. He will act as lawyer for the public.

### Citizens Against Raise.

The Citizens' Federation is vigorously opposed to higher fare and have selected Mr. Clayton to present the views of the federation to the Public Utilities Commission. Mr. Clayton is preparing his argument today.

"If the rate now asked by the Washington Railway and Electric Company should be given and the same rate passed also to the Capital Traction Company," said Mr. Clayton, "in discussing the fare question today, 'the rate of return to the companies would then be 10 per cent, 4 per cent more than they are permitted to earn under the law, and more than \$1,300,000 yearly would be taken from a class of people with whom every penny counts.'"

Mr. Clayton declares that an increase in fare would cost the people of Washington \$2,000,000 more a year. He states that in 1919 the public paid \$2,300,000 more in fares than in 1918.

### Car Riders Pay Too Much.

"The commission has fixed 6 per cent as the rate of return on the physical valuations of the respective companies," said Mr. Clayton, "yet today the Capital Traction and Washington Railway and Electric Company are earning together a return of 7 per cent on the combined valuations of \$30,000,000. The car riders of the District are today paying \$300,000 more than the law says they should pay. They are asked to pay 6 per cent and they pay 7 per cent."

Clip your Liberty Bond coupons and exchange them for W. S. S., thereby aiding yourself and your country.



# QUALITY SERVICE

# Base Ball Uniforms.

When your team comes on the field you want it to create a favorable impression on the fans and your opponents, don't you? You cannot expect them to do this, though, unless it is properly uniformed.

Roberts' Uniforms are made-to-measure—of the best quality, and the fit is guaranteed. Let us give an estimate on your requirements—we will bring samples and be prepared to offer helpful suggestions—if you wish. Orders taken now can be filled without delay.

We can supply you with every item of Base Ball equipment.

# Racquet Re-Stringing.

You should attend to having your Racquet re-stringing now. The tennis season is almost here and we are prepared to give you twenty-four-hour service.

All work is done in our own shops—by men who are experts. We use the best of imported and domestic gut and every job is fully guaranteed. If properly done, a re-stringing Racquet is superior to a new one in many ways, so don't throw away a good frame just because the gut is played out—bring it to us and we'll put it in fine condition.

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